--- 1/40th Pound - “Series of 1886” - 4th BABN Contract (1886-1892) ---

--- *lithographed* in BLUE on *unwatermarked* vertical mesh wove - 21 x 28 mm. ---

--- perforated 12 - scanned at 200% scale ---

The omission of the inscribed **THREE POUNDS / PER M OR / UNDER** probably had no significance other than a simplification of the stamp design for *small* cigarettes. Unless otherwise specified by design, or overprinting, the basic stamp implied *small* cigarette.

I think that the catalogue listing is reversed. The catalogue lists **RC-89(L)** as from 1886, and prior to **RC-98**. I feel that this is incorrect. **RC-98** is inscribed **“THREE POUNDS / PER M OR / UNDER”** (which logically follows from the “Series of 1880” Type III strip, which was inscribed with “**NOT MORE THAN 1/20 lb**”). I think that **RC-98-100** are from 1886, and were recorded by John McKay as *recess printed* under the **3rd BABN Contract** - see below:

John McKay records that 735,000 *recess printed* copies of “1-40 Blue, Square, Cigarettes” were ‘delivered’ under the **3rd BABN Contract** (1878-1886). These *recess printed* stamps seem to have been copies of **RC-98-100**.

He further reports that under the **4th BABN Contract** (1886-1892) another 1,795,200 *recess printed* and 259,300 *lithographed* copies of “1-40 Blue, Square, Cigarettes” were ‘delivered’. Apparently the former were the residual copies of **RC-98-100** (from the preceding contract), while the latter were **RC-89(L)**.

★**RC-89(L)** - 1/40th pound, blue, perf 12, *lithographed* on *unwatermarked* vertical mesh wove, rollered **CUSTOMS / TOBACCO / HALIFAX N.S.** - ★ plus two other plain copies

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File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RC_STAMPS \ 1886-88 \ 1-40th blue],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
December 9th 2013, JBH